Amendment To the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following replacement paragraph:

A communication network containing components which use and provide services in the communication network, a plurality of components capable of providing the identical service. In one embodiment, one component determines the services provided by other components in the communication network. If the same services are provided by two components, information relating to the output state of the software controlling the services is compared by one of the components. A software update is initialized if the output states differ. If a defined service is activated in a second component by means of a first component, but the service cannot be provided by means of the software of the second component although the second component has the necessary hardware requirements therefore, said service is made available by downloading or updating the software of the second component.